

BRIEFS

Lower Thai economic growth projected

BANGKOK, June 27: Thailand's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to fall to 7.5 per cent in 1992 from an earlier 8.1 per cent estimate and 7.9 per cent in 1991, the Bank of Thailand said, reports Reuters.

Central bank governor Vijit Supinit told a seminar on Wednesday his lower 1992 growth projection could be attributed to damage caused by a bloody political unrest here in May which he described as a hiccup that did not change the underlying strength of the economy.

Taiwan dollar hits record high

TAIPEI, June 27: The Taiwan dollar, propelled by high local interest rates here hit an all-time high of 24.645 against the US dollar, reports AFP.

Coupled with the central bank's hands-off policy, the Taiwan dollar broke the record high of 24.699 registered on the previous day.

Japan's banks lower prime rate

TOKYO, June 27: The industrial bank of Japan said Thursday it will lower its long-term prime rate by 0.2 percentage points to 6.1 per cent in July, reports AFP.

The long-term prime rate is the interest banks charge on loans of one year or more to their most credit-worthy customers.

The nation's two other long-term credit banks, the long-term credit bank of Japan and Nippon Credit bank, are expected to follow suit.

Indian bank posts record profits

NEW DELHI, June 27: India's largest commercial bank posted record profits in the last fiscal year despite losses of eight billion rupee (266 million dollar) in a massive securities fraud, press reports said here, according to AFP.

Net profits of the government-owned State Bank of India (SBI) touched 1.75 billion rupee (58.3 million dollar) in the year to March 31, up from 1.07 billion rupee (35.6 million dollars) the previous year.

HOUSTON, June 27: US crude oil prices will move within narrow ranges next week as traders await developments in Iraq-UN talks, industry analysts said, reports Reuters.

Oil prices ended lower Friday on news that key UN Security Council members were still hoping a formula could be worked out to allow Iraq to re-enter the world petroleum market.

Coffee talks fail

LONDON, June 27: Coffee-trading nations on Friday ended a week-long meeting here on a proposed new international treaty to lift depressed world prices without reaching agreement on any of the issues considered, reports AP.

The inconclusive outcome coincided with a fall in the world price of beans to a new 20-year low.

The 70-nation International Coffee Organization, under whose auspices the talks were held, scheduled further discussion on the proposed pact for the end of July.

New effort to end

US rail strike on

WASHINGTON, June 27: Unions and railroads began Friday a new effort to resolve their four-year-old wage-and-work rule disputes under the pressure of binding arbitration imposed as the government ended a two-day rail shutdown, reports AP.

But some union officials branded the new and untied approach "a crime" that will destroy collective bargaining by effectively ending the right of labour to strike.

FAO reports food shortage in Africa

NAIROBI, June 27: Some 40 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are facing food shortage with 19 nations needing emergency relief aid as a result of prolonged drought and internal conflicts, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), reports Xinhua.

In a special report on Africa's food situation issued here on Wednesday the FAO estimated that the sub-region would be short of about 15 million tons of food this year. It predicted that 1992 would be another difficult year for sub-Saharan Africa with Southern and Eastern Africa bearing the brunt.

Japan agrees to boost economy, cut trade surplus

TOKYO, June 27: Japan is ready to accept demands from other G-7 nations to boost its economy and cut its growing trade surplus at the Munich Summit next month, reports Reuters.

Changing his usually wary tone, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Japan would agree to requests from other countries that it reach a certain level of economic growth.

"There has been a global request for Japan to boost economic growth and we will meet that request by securing a certain level of growth," he told a news conference.

For fear of increasing Japan's budget deficit, the ministry of finance had resisted pressure from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to prepare a supplementary budget. But Hata has finally joined other members of the

administration by agreeing to such a budget.

Minister of trade and industry Kozo Watanabe told a separate news conference that Japan's economic ministers agreed to help Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa take a strong position at the G-7 summit in order to help boost the world economy.

"Japan will not take economic boosting steps just because it feels the need to coordinate with the other G-7 members," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute.

"But pursuing domestic policy to save the economy from plunging would, in a way, make Japan look as if it is keeping in line with the G-7," he said.

Washington is increasing pressure on Japan to stimulate domestic demand so that it can take more US export.

President Bush needs a promise of economic boosting measures from other countries to speed US economic recovery and bring votes for him in the presidential election in November.

Copying US tactics of pressuring Japan on its chronic trade surplus, European countries, flooded with Japanese exports, have also urged Tokyo to prop up domestic demand.

Japan can either take fiscal stimuli, cut interest rates or push up its own currency's value.

A Japanese monetary source said all G-7 members wanted a higher yen in principle but some European nations, including Germany, feared a higher yen could depress the dollar and push up their currencies too fast.

In theory, a higher currency will help to increase imports

of a country and cut its exports.

Leaders of the government and LDP have agreed that a cut in the official discount rate would not help to boost demand quickly enough.

They are banking on a traditional cure and are making an 11th-hour effort to find a consensus on the size and timing of a supplementary budget, including tax cuts, before Miyazawa leaves for Washington on Tuesday.

Another report adds: Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will next week offer President Bush an election-year economic windfall and ask for support in a territorial dispute with Russia, officials said.

Miyazawa has said he plans to draw up a supplementary budget this autumn to boost the slumping Japanese econ-

omy in a move likely to suck in American exports.

"A pledge of economic boosting measures from other countries will help the President with his bid for re-election," a Japanese official said.

As well as talks at the White House, the two are expected to have lengthy, personal discussions at Bush's Camp David retreat to prepare for the July 6-8 G-7 summit in Munich.

Miyazawa will leave on Tuesday to visit Washington on July 1-2 and London on July 3-5 before attending the summit which brings together the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

The Japanese government and the ruling liberal democratic party are making an 11th-hour effort to find a consensus on the size and timing of a supplementary budget, in-

cluding tax cuts.

Japanese officials believe the supplementary budget will ease possible friction over trade despite a rise in Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus to an unadjusted 7.87 billion dollar in May from 4.16 billion dollar a year earlier.

At the US talks, Japan will reiterate that it will not hand large-scale financial aid to Russia before a territorial dispute between the two is solved, government officials said.

Disputed sovereignty over a chain of islands north of Japan, seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War Two, has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty.

"On the northern territory, (Miyazawa) will ask Bush to confirm unchanged US support to Japan's position," one government official said.

Guangdong plans 12.9 pc GDP growth for next 20 years

BEIJING, June 27: South China's Guangdong plans 12.9 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth each year for the next 20 years so the booming province can catch up with the four "Dragon" economies of Asia by the year 2010, its Governor said, reports Reuters.

The planned growth rate compares with average annual GDP growth of 13.9 per cent between 1984 and 1991, Zhu Senlin told officials in Beijing, the China Daily reported.

In the first five months of this year Guangdong's industrial production rose by some 26 per cent over the same period last year, Zhu told a meeting of the standing committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Bush expresses optimism over US economy

NEW YORK, June 27: President George Bush stressed the US economy is on the mend and said the government should not be involved in industrial planning, reports Reuters.

"I happen to think the economy is better than most of the people in America think," he said in an interview with the New York Times.

"We saw polls last week 60 per cent of the people think the economy is getting worse... the economy is getting better."

Bush was asked about the competitiveness of US industries in relation to Japan in light of criticism that the government is not doing enough to help industry.

"I don't think we ought to have industrial planning," Bush said. "I don't believe in targeting."

Britain pledges 20 million pound to India

LONDON, June 27: Britain has pledged 20 million pounds (37.8 million dollar) in balance of payments aid to India for the next 12 months, the Overseas Development Administration said Friday, reports AFP.

The money forms part of an overall 650-million-dollar package pledged by international donors in support of India's economic reform programme.

Commenting on the pledge, Overseas Development minister Lady Chalker said "Narasimha Rao and his government have shown real courage in tackling India's economic crisis."

US to open stock advisory post in Poland

WASHINGTON, June 27: The US Securities and Exchange Commission will open its first permanent overseas advisory post in Warsaw next month, officials said Friday, reports AP.

The US market watchdog is sending a lawyer with 20 years' experience in securities law to advise Poland's market regulators on mutual funds, financial planning and financial reporting.

Robert D Strahota, 52, an attorney attached to the SEC general counsel's office, will open shop at the Polish Securities Commission on July 1.

SEC Chairman Richard Breiden first announced plans to open two full-time advisory offices in Eastern Europe in March.

"This is the first time that the SEC will have permanently stationed an advisor with a foreign securities commission."

Accused Standard Chartered chief goes on leave

NEW DELHI, June 27: Federal detectives presented Friday a "secret report" to an Indian court explaining how Standard Chartered Bank was cheated in a massive securities fraud, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

In a related development, Standard Chartered Chief Executive P.S. Nat was asked to take immediate leave after being charged with involvement in the scandal, PTI quoted bank sources as saying.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) placed the report before Special Judge S.N. Variava in Bombay and requested that it should not be made public so as not to hamper investigations, the news agency said.

The document reportedly detailed how leading Indian brokers held several meetings and conspired to cheat the London headquartered bank, which is facing the prospect of

huge losses because of the scam which has hit both foreign and local banks here.

Top stockbrokers, in collusion with bank officials, are alleged to have siphoned at least one billion-dollars from the government securities market to make in stocks. The scandal surfaced in April.

Nat would be on leave until completion of investigations in the current financial irregularities in India, the sources said in Bombay, where the bank has its Indian headquarters.

David Gardiner, Executive Director of Corporate Banking, will act as chief Executive until further notice, PTI said.

The agency said the decision followed an allegation Friday in Variava's court that one of the brokers arrested in the case had made out a cheque for more than one million rupees (38,460 dollars) in the name of Nat's wife.

OECD paints gloomy picture for G7

PARIS, June 27: Following are summaries of the outlook for the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries, taken from the latest half-yearly economic report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), reports Reuters.

United States — Growth will pick up in 1992, but only modestly, with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rising 2.1 per cent this year and 3.6 per cent in 1993. The OECD warned the Federal Reserve against tightening policy too soon. It is less confident than the government that the budget deficit will begin to fall next year.

Japan — Growth is forecast to slip back to 1.8 per cent this year from 4.5 per cent in 1991, though easier credit conditions and more personal spending will help activity during the second half. The trade surplus is forecast to rise to 125 billion dollar in 1992 from 103.3 billion dollar in 1991.

Germany — The OECD said the Bundesbank must continue to fight inflation and it saw no real relaxation in monetary policy this year. It forecasts West German Consumer price inflation of 3.5 per cent in 1993, down from 4.2 per cent this year. Wage rises should be lower in 1993, but cost pressures remain.

France — Inflation remains low, competitiveness is improving, and growth is set to

pick up gradually. But low tax revenue could see the budget deficit overshooting its target again in 1992, with the OECD forecasting a gap of 32 billion dollar versus the latest government estimate of some 26 billion dollar.

Britain — The OECD slashed its forecast for growth in 1992 to 0.4 per cent from the 2.2 per cent it predicted in December. Unemployment could touch three million, or 10 per cent of the workforce, early in 1993.

Canada — Growth will pick up slowly to 2.3 per cent this year and 4.3 per cent in 1993, but domestic demand will remain low, partly due to continuing high unemployment.

EC reappoints Delors as president for record 5th time

LISBON, June 27: Leaders of the 12 European Community states late Friday appointed Jacques Delors to another two-year term as President of the EC executive Commission starting in 1993, reports AP.

The decision to name Delors to a record fifth term ends weeks of uncertainty about his succession at the EC head office in Brussels, Belgium, as the Community prepares to admit new members in the years ahead.

While other names have been cited as possible successors, no EC state put forward an alternative to Delors.

The 66-year-old French Socialist became head of the EC's 17-member executive branch in 1985, at a time when the trade bloc lacked direction.

He has been credited with giving it a new sense of purpose through an ambitious single market plan to remove red tape and other hurdles that still hamper trade within the trading bloc.

In 1991, Delors was instrumental in the Community's drive for a single foreign and security policy, a central bank and a common currency through the European Union treaty which the EC leaders signed in Maastricht, the Netherlands, last December.

Aftermath of Danish debacle

EC to admit rich new members

LISBON, June 27: European Community leaders, trying to regroup after Denmark's snub of plans for a united Europe, are ready to add as many as five new members to their ranks, reports AP.

The leaders, winding up a two-day summit on Saturday, are expected to set conditions for enlarging the 12-nation trading bloc to neighboring nations by the middle of the decade.

In deciding Friday to open their doors, the chiefs signaled a desire to expand their influence on a continent undergoing enormous change with the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Since the end of the Cold War, the EC has become the most desirable club in Europe.

Seven nations already have applied to join, and additional requests are likely in the next few years.

But the leaders tentatively agreed to admit only the rich nations of Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and possibly Norway.

They promised to tighten links with other applicants, the poorer nations of Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, which intend to apply soon.

The Community, which last welcomed entrants in 1986,

moved quickly to get agreement on new members after Denmark dealt it a sharp setback by refusing to sign on to the unity project.

The union treaty, negotiated last December in the Dutch town of Maastricht, would create a fledgling federal government with a common foreign and security policy and a single currency by 1999.

All 12 nations must ratify the agreement before it can go into effect early next year. So far, only Ireland has done so.

Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter said his government would make some unspecified move on the accord.

Donors pledge India \$ 7.2 billion

PARIS, June 27: International donors pledged 7.2 billion US dollar in aid to India for 1992/93 at a two-day meeting that ended on Friday, said Montek Ahluwalia, economic affairs secretary to the Indian government, reports Reuters.

World Bank officials said this week India would be looking for around 6.7 billion US dollar in aid for the year to March 31, 1993.

"We are very gratified that the donor community in the total amounts pledged has come up with a figure which exceeds the minimum esti-

mate. It gives a very strong signal of support for the reform effort in India," Ahluwalia told a news conference.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao inherited a severe economic crisis when he came to power in June 1991, and India came close to defaulting on its external debt that month.

Since then, his government had overcome the balance of payments of crisis and has set about liberalising what was once one of the most regulated economies in the world.

India still has a balance of payments problem, and the

World Bank estimates it will need 10 billion US dollar in external finance in 1992/93 to service its debt and close its current account gap.

Around 1.8 billion US dollar of the aid pledged this week would be in the form of quick-disbursing balance of payments support, Ahluwalia said. A separate 1.6 billion US dollar would be given by the International Monetary Fund for the same purpose.

To supplement this, India is pulling out the stops to attract foreign investment, and Prime Minister Rao has been in Japan wooing investors this week.

Stock investors face some world size question marks

NEW YORK, June 27: Investors in the stock market are faced with some world-sized question marks as they consider the outlook for the rest of 1992, reports AP.

US stocks have turned in a poor showing over the past few weeks. But their losses have been minor compared to the drops suffered in such overseas markets as Japan's and Mexico's.

European markets also have been unsettled by some bumps in the road toward monetary union.

This chain of events has left analysts debating whether Wall Street's prospects are significantly hurt by woes in other financial capitals.

"All of these markets are correcting together at the moment, but the fundamentals are different," observed David Roche at Morgan Stanley and Co. "I believe that the strongest theme in international equity market investment over the next year will be the decoupling of markets."

Still, many analysts say the progress of economic recovery in the United States may well be hindered by sluggish eco-

omic conditions in the nation's important export markets.

"I believe investors will spend most of this summer, if not all of it, digesting what the world economic environment really implies for growth rates of US industries and companies," says Greg Smith at Prudential Securities in a current market commentary.

An objective look at the outlook for other developed countries doesn't offer much encouragement for this year.

Furthermore, many observers still wonder how the US market can escape any significant fallout from the slide that has swept Japanese stocks lower by about 60 per cent over the past two and half years, to their lowest level since 1986.

"Stock market weakness of recent days in the US is in part related to the ongoing stumbling of the Japanese market," says Jeff Thredgold, chief economist at the bank holding company Keycorp.

"The uniform softness in stock markets around the world is one more testament

to the reality that in the world today we have one enormous global financial market made up of smaller markets."

Or as analysts at Wright Investors' Service in Bridgeport, Conn., see the situation: "Recent weakness in the US stock market stems more from high stock prices and investor disappointment with the pace of the economic recovery than from the sell off in Tokyo."

"Nonetheless, the free-fall in Japanese stock prices represents one more reason for equity investors to be cautious today."

They were certainly cautious over the past week, leaving the market to drift without a single session in which the Dow Jones industrial average rose or fell by as much as seven points.

The widely recognize averaged of 30 blue chips closed Friday at 3,282.41, down 2.94 points from the week before.

Elsewhere, the Nasdaq Composite Index for the over-the-counter market fell 6.32 to 547.88, and the American Stock Exchange market Value Index lost 0.35 to 374.04.



Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh

Notice Inviting Quotation for supply of PC

Sealed quotation is invited from recognised suppliers/agent/dealers of reputed computer manufacturing firms for supply of the following items:
PC-386, Processor: 80386SX, CPU speed: 25 MHz or above, Co-processor Socket for 387SX math co-processor, Memory: 2 MB (expandable to 16 MB), Expansion Slots: ONE 8-bit and FIVE 16-bit Slots, Ports: 2 parallel, 2 serial and 1 game port, Hard Disk: 40 MB, Floppy Drive: ONE 3.5" and ONE 5.25", Key Board: 101-Key enhanced heavy keyboard with 12 function keys and Cursor keys, Power Supply: 200 Watts, Monitor: 14" Monochrome, Hercules Graphics card with the following software: MS-DOS operating system, dBASE/Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, Word Perfect, Bangla Software "BANA" and Software to communicate with Alpha-micro 2000M computers.

The quotation must accompany a Bank Draft/Pay Order of 2.5% of the quoted price as earnest money (refundable) and must reach (including those sent by post) the undersigned by 12:30 pm on 09-07-1992. The quotations will be opened on the same day at 12:40 pm in front of the tenderers if any. The authority reserves the right of accepting or cancelling any of the submitted quotations or part thereof without showing any reason whatsoever.

Dr. BM Chowdhury
Registrar.

D-345

Adamjee Sons Limited Under Administration of the Ministry of Jute

Adamjee Court, 3rd floor
115-120 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Tender Invitation for supply of Telephone Exchange & Set

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned for supply & installation of an automatic Telephone Exchange containing 5-10 digital connections and minimum 30 internal extension lines. Price for each connection should be quoted separately.

2. Rates for both local or foreign Exchange Board & sets can be proposed. Tender proposals with earnest money at the rate 2.5 per cent of the proposed value through Pay Order/DD in favour of this establishment should be dropped in the tender box of this office by 12:00 noon on 2-7-92 which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 minutes before the tenderers present.

3. The authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all tenders.

Mohammad Siddique Ullah
General Manager
Phone - 240302

DFFP (BA)5716-22/6
G-809